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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Defense Dept. Studies PCS Dislocation Pay

The Defense Department is conducting a survey to develop a more adequate dislocation allowance for personnel completing a PCS.

The survey, requested by the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee, is being conducted by all the military departments.

Survey forms are to be completed by personnel above the grade of E–4 with more than four years service who complete a PCS between Feb. 15 and May 16.

The committee will use information from the survey in a review of the dislocation allowance to determine its adequacy and need for adjustment of the amounts now authorized. Also, consideration will be given to establishing a Temporary Lodging Allowance within CONUS.

Not concerned with expenses incurred during travel, the committee is requesting information on costs incurred prior to the beginning of travel and following arrival at a new station.

Major First Fleet Exercise Underway off So. California

The first major exercise of 1966 for Navy's First Fleet began off the coast of Southern California April 12.

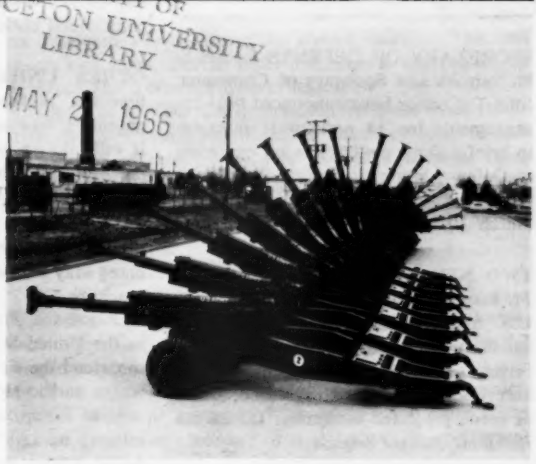
Forty-eight ships, from aircraft carriers to minesweepers, are participating in the 11-day exercise named "Grey Ghost."

Navy ships, air units and support forces will practice air strikes and reconnaissance missions, anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare including coastal bombardment, simulated search and rescue missions and other aspects of naval warfare.

MAC Opens 3 New Pacific Routes

Military Airlift Command has opened three new trans-Pacific channels, flying modified polar routes from the East Coast for the first time on a regularly scheduled basis.

New channels originate at Dover AFB, Del., and Charleston AFB, S.C., serving such Pacific locations as Clark AB, the Philippines, and Tan Son Nhut, RVN, by way of Alaska and Japan.



"SPRAY" GUNS—Army's new M–102 105mm howitzers are pictured at different elevations creating a swirl effect. Capable of greater firepower, longer range and more flexibility in a changing situation, the M–102 has replaced the 1942 vintage M101A1 howitzer in 101st Airborne Division Artillery, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Army to Withdraw 15,000 Personnel from Europe

Several thousand Army personnel in Europe are scheduled for return to the United States before the end of FY66, according to U.S. officials.

The withdrawal will not involve any major combat units, the officials said, and is only temporary.

Expected to begin this month, the withdrawal will involve about 15,000 personnel of the present 225,000 assigned. However, the officials said by the end of the year the strength will be back to its present level.

The withdrawal may result in shorter tours for some personnel in certain skills, and is part of a plan to fill critical stateside specialities required by the Army's buildup.

Reduction Seen in RVN Air Sorties

A Defense Department spokesman said there has been a temporary reduction in air sorties within RVN.

One reason given is that the South Vietnamese Army is mounting fewer attacks requiring air support.

Washington Memos

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Robert S. McNamara and Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor have announced final arrangements for 14 nationwide meetings to brief defense contractors on operation of Defense Materials System and Priorities. Series started in Baltimore, Md., March 30, will continue until mid-June.

TWO NEW UNITS have organized at Ft. Benning, Ga. A third brigade at the U.S. Army Training Center, capable of handling 4,400 basic trainees, began receiving men in March. The Infantry Officer Candidate School organized fourth of seven projected companies for its 6th Battalion, Student Brigade.

U.S. ARMY CORPS of Engineers will conduct study of Niagara Falls to determine measures to be taken against growing problem of rockfalls. Engineers will use cameras to optically analyze substrata and if necessary, build a temporary cofferdam upstream to divert waters long enough to make close examination of cracks and other imperfections on face of falls.

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., graduated 125 students from Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. Graduates completed courses in Chinese-Mandarin, Czech, Korean, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Thai and Vietnamese languages.

FAA FLIGHT SAFETY Award certificates have been presented to 36 Air Force Aero Clubs for completing a full year of flight operations last year without accident. Awards were presented by FAA Administrator William F. McKee. Special award and commendation was presented to Maj. Gen. George B. Greene Jr., USAF, assistant deputy chief of staff for military personnel, for "consistently effective results achieved under his leadership in reducing, year after year, the accident rate among USAF Aero Clubs."

NEW BLUE UNIFORM, announced last December, has been approved by Air Force CofS. It will be issued to basic trainees and become available in Air Force clothing sales stores around December 1967, becoming a mandatory item by 1970. Optional uniforms of the new darker shade are expected in BXs and commercial outlets late this year.

OTHER UNIFORM ITEMS, such as topcoats, overcoats and headgear, will gradually take on the darker blue hue. It will take an estimated six years before the new shade becomes standard for all uniform items.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS designated May 23 for observation of National Maritime Day. While issuing the proclamation the President noted, "As long as the United States may be called upon to defend the Free World's interests anywhere on the globe, our ships are necessary to insure continuous supply of the military material that helps to prevent or defeat aggression by any country." President Johnson said it is appropriate that National Maritime Day be observed May 23 since May 22, the date established by Congress in 1933, falls on Sunday.

SERIES E U.S. SAVINGS Bonds grow at the rate of 4.15 percent, compounded semi-annually, returning $4 for every $3 in seven years. Payment of income tax on interest may be deferred until bonds are cashed or reach maturity.

UNLOADING OF MILITARY tonnage at Saigon port has increased 500 percent over early 1965, Army's 1st Logistical Command has announced. Military freight handled in first three months of 1966 totaled 500,000 tons.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF Retired Officers Association has invited all members of National ROA to 18th Biennial Convention at Twin Cities, Minn., Sept. 29–30, 1966. It is first national convention held outside Washington, D.C., since Association moved there in 1944.

COL. EMMETTE Y. BURTON Jr., was appointed deputy assistant commandant of Army Artillery and Missile School, Ft. Sill, Okla., March 31, replacing Col. Robert C. Williams, who has retired.

CASH AWARDS PAID to uniformed personnel start at $15 for tangible first year benefits to Government. This amount is authorized for benefits of $50–$300. To receive maximum $25,000 authorization, benefits must exceed $100,000. When awards are based solely or primarily on intangible benefits, cash award may range upward to $750 or more in some cases.

INAUGURAL AWARD OF the Eugene M. Zuckert Trophy of Arnold Air Society was presented to Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, commander, Air Force Systems Command.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AUBURN, Ala., has scheduled largest single Red Cross blood collection for Department of Defense in current drive by college students to give blood for American servicemen in the RVN. Minimum of 3,000 students are expected to donate, exceeding 2,125 record set by the University of Illinois last November.

NIKE HERCULES BATTERY of 2d Missile Bn., 56th Arty., 32d Arty. Bde., has returned to Kaiserslautern, Germany, after qualifying as first such NATO missile unit to record a perfect score at Annual Service Practice at McGregor Range, N.M.

THIRTY-TWO NEW 155mm howitzers have been transferred to the Republic of Korea Army, adding to 28 they received in March. Under program to modernize Korean armed forces, U.S. has recently given Korea O–1 "Bird Dog" aircraft, M–48 tanks, five-ton wreckers and 750-gallon fuel tankers.

COL. JOHN B. STOCKTON, USA, has been named deputy commander of U.S. Army Aviation Brigade, Army's newest and largest operational aviation command. The brigade is composed of more than 45 aviation units in the RVN.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

South Vietnam's National Liberation Front—Creature of Hanoi*

The role of the Viet Cong, and in particular the National Liberation Front, as the Viet Cong are sometimes mistakenly called, has suggested some of the most misleading and untrue comments on the tortuous conflict in Indochina.

It has been suggested that the United States has been neglecting the possible path to peace that would lead through dealing directly with the National Liberation Front, and that somehow we have to find it possible to acknowledge the existence of the front and to deal with this front directly as a negotiating power in the conflict in Vietnam.

The National Liberation Front will be able to have all of its views represented at any negotiations to which Hanoi might agree. The U.S. Government has made its intentions clear on this point. Again and again the President has referred to unconditional discussions or negotiations with any government.

Thus, if Hanoi were to accept such a bid it would be with the full understanding that the National Liberation Front would be represented through Hanoi, or with Hanoi at such a conference table.

However, thereby hangs a good bit of the misconception that concerns the connection between the National Liberation Front and Hanoi.

The record shows that the National Liberation Front was in fact created by Hanoi. It remains under the control of Hanoi.

In September 1960, the Third National Congress of Lao Dong, the official communist organization in Hanoi, adopted a simple resolution urging the creation of a front group to achieve unity in all of Vietnam.

"Our People"

That resolution, passed by the Lao Dong Party in North Vietnam at that time, goes on to say that "our people"—meaning the North Vietnamese in the Communist Party, the Lao Dong—must strive to establish a unified bloc of workers, peasants, and soldiers, and to bring into being a broad national unified front. This is in the resolution adopted by the power in Hanoi in September of 1960.

From time to time it is asserted that the National Liberation Front was actually created south of the division line that separated the two Vietnams in 1954. Many of us have tried to find any substantive basis for this allegation. We have tried to find anything that would support in any way these assertions. So far nothing can be located. Nothing substantial has been submitted. These assertions have been contributed only by the members of the National Liberation Front themselves when they try to protest.

But none will meet the test of documentation. Not only is there evidence to the fact that the September statement in Hanoi contains no reference whatsoever to any endemic developments in Vietnam already in existence, but Hanoi goes on to suggest that they better "get with it" and inject such a front group in the south in order to provide the trappings for a rallying point for their cause, as they describe it.

Thus, it can be seen that the National Liberation Front was the creature of Hanoi. It was conceived in Hanoi, by Hanoi and for Hanoi.

Until April of 1962 the National Liberation Front had not disclosed any names of its alleged leaders. This was nearly two years after its inception, after it was cooked up in Hanoi, and still no mention of its leaders.

In spite of the fact that its program has been made public from the very beginning, when the names of some leaders were finally revealed, it became clear that none of these avowed leaders had ever occupied any significant position in South Vietnamese political life either before 1954 or since 1954.

Important Elements

The purpose of indicating that is merely to suggest that this entire enterprise was a concoction for psychological warfare purposes, in an attempt to inject and infuse into the complexities of the South that this was a genuine civil war and this was the evidence for it, the National Liberation Front. Whatever elements of genuine civil strife there may be, and there are many, it is important we understand what they are.

They are not vested in the National Liberation Front. The sooner we eliminate that language, that term, from our attempt to analyze the conflict in Vietnam, the sooner it will be possible for us to deal straightforwardly with the hard issue of the core of the problem.

Despite the turbulence of South Vietnamese politics, not a single significant non-communist spokesman or group in the south has ever embraced the Viet Cong or the National Liberation Front. It is this that makes it imperative that we assign the National Liberation Front to its proper category, at its proper level, with its proper motivation: merely a child of Hanoi, an arm of the policy of Hanoi, an instrumentality in the tactics of power politics that communists have pursued since the end of World War II.

**This article was abridged from a speech by Sen. Gale W.. McGee, D.-Wyo.*

Army Chief of Engineers Gives Favorable Report on RVN Ports

The RVN port bottleneck has been broken with monthly unloaded tonnage now exceeding that shipped from the United States to the Republic of Korea during Korean Conflict peak.

This was disclosed by Army's Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. William F. Cassidy after a two-week RVN tour.

He said the present situation is meeting operational requirements, although internal distribution remains a problem because Viet Cong control a large part of the interior roads.

Four Chaplains Cited for Service

Four chaplains, representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Veterans Administration, have been cited by a New York chapter of B'nai B'rith for service to their country.

The annual award, memorializing four WWII chaplains who gave up their life jackets and sacrificed their lives when torpedoes struck the SS Dorchester, was presented to Capt. Alfred Brough, USA, 3rd Inf., Ft. Myer, Va.; Capt. Michael J. MacGinnis, USN, Washington Navy Yard, D.C.; Maj. Henry D. Arrow, USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Rabbi Solomon Shapiro, VA Hospital, New York, N.Y.

Chaplain Alexander D. Goode-Ben Goldman Lodge of B'nai B'rith, New York City, made the presentations April 2.

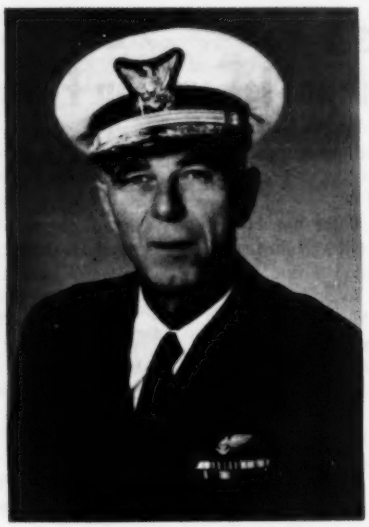
Portable Dental Units Pass RVN Field Test

Army's new portable, high-speed dental units have been field tested in the RVN and proved so successful that more units were ordered before all testing was completed.

Each unit is packed into two carrying cases. One case holds an air compressor and the other contains the dental field console.

Officials say the units provide the same operator capabilities and patient comforts as found in a fixed dental clinic.

Prototype models were originally introduced in-country. There are now 75 in the RVN and 50 more are on order, featuring improvements over the prototypes.



NEW CG COMMANDANT—RAdm. Willard J. Smith, USCG, Commander, 9th Coast Guard District, Cleveland, named to succeed Adm. Edwin J. Roland, Commandant of the Coast Guard, who will retire May 31. A promotion to admiral goes with the appointment.

Army Regulation Change Cuts Time for E-5 Advancements

Certain Army enlisted personnel can advance to E–5 in a year-and-a-half after entering service under a new regulation change.

The policy applies to outstanding enlistees and inductees and provides time-in-grade and time-in-service reductions and waivers.

Officials say the new policy is to allow early identification, development and recognition of young and vigorous leaders.

New GI Bill Has Certain Restrictions

Post-Korean veterans planning to use the educational provisions of the new GI Bill should bear in mind certain restrictions, VA officials have announced.

The new bill does not permit apprenticeship courses and other on-the-job or on-the-farm training, as were authorized under previous GI Bills. Flight training will be authorized only as part of a complete college or university program leading to a definite degree.

Veterans discharged after Jan. 31, 1955, will be eligible to begin courses after June 1, 1966. Full information can be obtained in any VA office and in most colleges and education centers after April 15, 1966.

Corp. Named to Study Potential Use of Retirees

The U.S. Office of Education has named the System Development Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., to investigate the potential use of retiring military personnel in state vocational and technical education programs.

A study team will survey a sample of enlisted and officer personnel to see whether their military background qualifies them for positions in schools and colleges as instructors, counselors, or administrators.

Using system analysis, the study will develop a method for fitting occupational and instructional skills and experiences of retiring military personnel into available positions indicated by state vocational education agencies.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Crouch, USAF, to be transferred from Hq., Aerospace Medical Div., AFSC, Brooks AFB, Tex., to Willford Hall USAF Hosp., AFSC, Lackland AFB, Tex., by May 16. **Brig. Gen. Charles H. Roadman, USAF,** reassigned from Hq., ADC, Ent AFB, Colo., to Hq., Aerospace Medical Div., AFSC, Brooks AFB, Tex., for duty as commander, by May 16. **RAdm. Lucien B. McDonald, USN,** former Commander, SubFlotOne, assigned as Commander, MSTS, Far East Area, Yokohama, Japan. **RAdm. Marshall W. White, USN,** former Commander, Carrier Div. Seven, assigned as Commander FltAirWesPac, NAS Atsugi, Japan. **Brig. Gen. Orwin C. Talbott, USA,** formerly with USAREUR, Heidleberg, Germany, assigned as Asst. Commander, Operational Readiness, 5th Inf. Div. (Mech.), Ft. Carson, Colo.

CONTRACT AWARDS

J. P. Stevens and Co., Inc., New York, N.Y.: $1,528,242 fixed-price contract for 185,560 wool blankets. **(DSA)**

Otis Elevator Co., Cleveland, Ohio: $1,156,200 contract for 200 electric fork-lift trucks of 4,000 pound capacity. **(DSA)**

Maremont Corp., Saco, Me.: $1,130,664 definitized fixed-price contract for M60 machine guns, and barrel and bipod assemblies. **(Army)**

Teletype Corp., Skokie, Ill.: $2,243,022 fixed-price contract for teletype equipment for installation on surface ships. **(Navy)**

Bendix Corp., Baltimore, Md.: $1,205,798 fixed-price order for weather radar systems. **(Air Force)**

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